

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1.-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A method comprising: administering an agent to a mouse with lupus; and comparing expression of a mouse ortholog of SFRP1 (~~SEQ ID NO:15~~) mRNA in kidney samples of the mouse before and after said administering to determine if said agent modulates expression of the mouse ortholog of SFRP1 in the mouse.

21 (new) The method of claim 20, wherein expression of said mouse SFRP1 mRNA is determined by gel electrophoresis, column chromatography, direct sequencing, quantitative polymerase chain reaction (PCR), reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), or nested-PCR.

22 (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the agent is a ribozyme.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the agent is an interfering RNA.

24. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein the interfering RNA is a small interfering RNA (siRNA).

25. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the agent modulates binding of SFRP1 mRNA to a binding partner.

26. (new) The method of claim 25 wherein the agent is a small molecule.

27. (new) The method of claim 25 wherein the agent is a bioactive agent.

28. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the bioactive agent is a pharmaceutical composition.

29. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the agent modifies the SFRP1 mRNA to improve its stability or solubility.